

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 /009 R

19
XDRAFTED BY:ARA/CEN/CR:MMBOVA/HLB
APPROVED BY:ARA/CEN-DAVID LAZAR
----- 026893

R 291544Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206063

LIMDIS FOR ROBERT ROSENSTOCK USUN LEGAL DIVISION

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 3679 ACTION SECSTATE 28 AUG 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3679

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,MSPGOVN :
SUBJECT: LIST OF COSTA RICAN LAWYERS FOR
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

REF: STATE 186000
STATE 176175
STATE 203920

1. AS REQUESTED REFTELS, EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING LIST
OF COSTA RICAN LAWYERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE TO ADVISE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ON COSTA RICAN
CORPORATE TAX LAW AND REGULATIONS. CRITERIA EMBASSY HAS
USED TO COMPILE THESE NAMES ARE SPECIALIZATION IN COSTA RICAN
CORPORATE AND TAX LAW AND REGULATIONS, HONESTY, PROBITY,
DISCRETION AND TRUSTWORTHINESS, KNOWLEDGE
CONFIDENTIAL

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OF ENGLISH, AND FAMILIARIZATION WITH (INCLUDING
POSSIBLE EXPERIENCE IN) LEGAL SYSTEM OF U.S. IT IS A
PRIORITY LISTING. NATURALLY, NONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS
IS AWARE THAT SUCH A LIST IS BEING COMPILED OR OF

HIS INCLUSION THEREIN.

2. EDUARDO ORTIZ ORTIZ: LIC. ORTIZ, ABOUT 40, IS KNOWN AS AN OUTSTANDINGLY ABLE AND HARD WORKING ATTORNEY. IN ADDITION TO HIS THRIVING PRACTICE, HE IS DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW, AND ALSO TEACHES ADMINISTRATIVE LAW. LIC. ORTIZ' STRONG PERSONALITY AND NO-NONSENSE APPROACH TO HIS PROFESSION, UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS, AND CLIENTS, GIVES HIM THE REPUTATION OF BEING, AT TIMES, BLUNT OR IRASCIBLE. HE IS CONSIDERED AN AUTHORITY ON COSTA RICAN ADMINISTRATIVE, PUBLIC, AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. FLUENT IN ENGLISH, ORTIZ HAS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN COMPARATIVE LAW FROM NYU (1957). IF HE WOULD TAKE THE CASE, JUSTICE WOULD HAVE ONE OF COSTA RICA'S BEST. SEE ALSO EMBASSY'S LAWYER LIST.

2. HARRY ZURCHER: IN HIS MID-60S, ZURCHER IS A WELL ESTABLISHED AND HIGHLY RESPECTED SPECIALIST IN COMMERCIAL LAW, WHO HAS REPRESENTED A NUMBER OF U.S. FIRMS IN COSTA RICA, HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT IN MARCH 1973 ZURCHER WAS ENGAGED BY SEC TO SERVE A SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT ON ULRICH STRICKLER. THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION AND ZURCHER FAILED TO SERVE ONE DOCUMENT, WHICH EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS WAS NOT A CRITICAL MATTER. EMBASSY IS IMPRESSED WITH ZURCHER'S HIGH REPUTATION IN LOCAL LEGAL CIRCLES. SE ALSO EMBASSY'S LAWYER LIST.

3. ALVARO PINTO LOPEZ: ABOUT 49, PINTO IS ALSO AN NYU COMPARATIVE LAW GRADUATE. HIS ENGLISH IS ADEQUATE. IN ADDITION TO A BUSY LAW PRACTICE AND MANAGING HIS OWN BUSINESS AFFAIRS (HE IS A LAND OWNER), PINTO IS A SUPPLEMENTARY MEMBER OF THE COSTA RICAN SUPREME ELECTION TRIBUNAL, THE BODY THAT ARBITRATES ALL DISPUTES STEMMING FROM ELECTRIONS IN THE COUNTRY. DUE TO THE LATTER POSITION, PINTO IS NOT ACTIVE POLITICALLY AND MIGHT NOT WISH TO ACCEPT USG CASE.

4. LUIS RAFAEL TINOCO ALVARADO: TINOCO, ABOUT 35, IS A MEMBER OF HIS FATHER'S LAW FIRM. HE IS KNOWN TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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ONE OF THE BRIGHTER YOUNG CORPORATE LAWYER IN COSTA RICA. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.

5. GUIDO LORILLA BENAVIDES: LORILLA, WELL VERSED IN TAX AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, HAS THE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF BEING A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF ORTIZ, ALTHOUGH THEY NO LONGER ARE LAW PARTNERS. HE IS HEAD OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF SNAA, GOVERNMENT WATER AND SEWERAGE AGENCY, AND THEREFORE MIGHT QT WISH TO TAKE THIS CASE. HE HANDLES ENGLISH ADEQUATELY.

6. COMMENT: IN CULLING THROUGH NAMES TO PRESENT TO JUSTICE, EMBASSY HAD TO DISCARD NUMBER OF COMPETENT

LAWYERS (1) WHO ARE REPRESENTING LIQUIDATORS IN VESCO CASE
OR (2) WHO MIGHT EVEN IN REMOTE WAY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED
WITH QUESTIONABLE CASES, VESCO RELATED AND OTHERWISE. LAWYERS
ON THIS

LIST ARE KNOWN THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT WITH
EMBOFFS OR FOR THEIR REPUTATIONS IN LEGAL COMMUNITY.
BOTH ORTIZ AND LORILLA ALSO KNOWLEDGEABLE RE EXTRADITION
MATTERS; THEIR FIRM HANDLED WELL KNOWN EXTRADITION CASE
OF AN INDIAN NATIOKEL A FEW YEARS AGO.
TODMAN
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ATTORNEY LIST, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, TAX LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE206063
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750301-0182
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750898/baaaaace.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971008
Subject: n/a
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, CS, PFOR, (ORTIZ ORTIZ, EDUARDO), (PINTO LOPEZ, ALVARO), (ZURCHER, HARRY)
To: USUN N Y
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006